The B. I. H. Bulletin

Number 2 BOSTON, MASS. April, 1944

Executive Director's Report

The Annual Report of the Executive Director has just been published in the form of a beautiful brochure. Some excerpts follow:

"The conclusion of the present fiscal year marks the completion of 15 years of service to the public. During this period,, about 85,000 people have been hospitalized and 100,000 have received treatment in the Outpatient Department. The essence (of the report) must necessarily be the recital of the problems of the hospital in wartime.

It is the story of the crowded hospital; it is the picture of difficult and earnest efforts to carry on and render service under the most trying conditions. It must reveal evidence of loss of doctors, nurses, and others to the armed forces. It must give evidence of a loss of many of its personnel to industry where the financial emoluments are greater. The story of the present large turnover of personnel is indeed a painful recital of constant change, particularly in the Dietary, Housekeeping, and Maintenance Departments, and only in a lesser measure among our clerical forces.

One may logically wonder how the load has been carried. Beth Israel was particularly prepared because of the basic existence for the 13 years preceding the war of a large Women's Volunteer Service. They have materially staffed the Outpatient Department, The Thrift Shop and The Gift Shop. They have made surgical dressings and maintained a library service.

A potent and powerful Women's Auxiliary, ably led, has served as the backbone of the hospital, and rich in woman power, they have been the reservoir on which we have drawn. They are rendering necessary service in the kitchen and dining rooms, in the Outpatient Department, and in the main hospital. They are serving as Red Cross Nurses Aides, and Gray Ladies.

Members of the Junior Auxiliary have staffed our information desks and helped as floor clerks and so forth.

A Men's Volunteer Corps has bridged particularly the deep gap created by loss of orderlies.

100 doctors of our staff are on active duty with the armed forces; 50 of our nursing staff and 25 additional members of our personnel are in uniform.

The medical service has been very fortunate in the addition to its staff of Dr. Henry A. Christian, who served until his retirement as Physician-in-Chief at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. His services both in the care of patients and in teaching, have been invaluable..

The duration of internships and residences has been further reduced to a 9 month period. The number of house officers has been cut down from 25 to 20, and the burdens of the limited visiting staff have thus been increased.

Dr. Jacob Fine has been appointed Director of the Surgical Research Department, on a full time basis."

An important part of the annual report was a listing of the Endowments, appeals for which met with generous response during 1943.

CAPT. LEONARD M. KLEIN

CAPT. LEONARD M. KLEIN has been decorated with the Silver Star "for gallantry in action at New Georgia and the Solomon Islands from June 30 to Sept. 22, 1943, in repeatedly exposing himself to heavy enemy fire in order to administer skillful treatment to wounded personnel."

The decoration was made by Lt. Gen. Millard F. Harmon, commanding U. S. Army Forces in the South Pacific Area.

Serving as a battlefront surgeon, Capt. Klein, who has seen action in a number of major battles in the Pacific, played an heroic role in the fight for Rendova and was one of the many soldiers to storm the New Georgia Island last June.

He later moved on to Munda and other battle fronts in the New Georgia Islands where for the entire months of July and August he and his men had to go without shaving and bathing, nor did they taste hot food except for a bit of hot chocolate. A letter home after the bloody battle described the men as having gone through "hell and fire".

His skillful surgery performed during one of the South Pacific fights saved the life of one of his men when he was forced to amputate through the man's right thigh in the midst of fighting on the battlefield.

He was among the soldiers on the U. S. S. Calvin Coolidge when the ship sank in the Pacific on Oct. 26, 1942. He assisted in the rescuing of his fellow passengers and lost everything he owned in the sinking (which incidentally occurred on his 29th birthday anniversary, except for the few clothes he was wearing).

The survivors took refuge at French New Hebrides where they remained until the following March when they were ordered to duty at Guadalcanal. Most of the heavy fighting had ended when Capt. Klein and his men reached Guadalcanal but the island was still subjected to constant bombing. They received amphibious training at the station and later moved on to Efate, New Hebrides, for further instruction before their part in the New Georgia campaign.

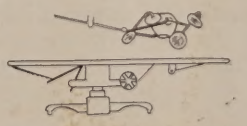
When last heard from, Capt. Klein was taking a well-deserved rest at one of the New Georgia Islands.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Fertility Clinic is equipped to investigate and treat problems relating to male and female infertility. (Wed. p.m. in O.P.D.)

The clinic can handle many more patients and would greatly appreciate having all worthy patients referred to it for study.

The Fertility Clinic Laboratory is equipped to do 17 Ketosteroid and Estrogen essays, and blood FSH determinations. Directions and containers for obtaining specimens may be obtained by applying to the laboratory.



The following is the list of house officers as of March 1, 1944:

Surgical Service—Dr. Leon Rosenfeld, Resident, Dr. Benjamin Moorstein, Assistant Resident, Dr. Irving Harrison, Dr. Morton Orlov, Dr. Melvin Taymor,

Dr. S. Melvin Schlemenson, Dr. Alexander Rutenberg, Dr. Alexander Albert.

Medical Service—Dr. William Gray, Resident, Dr. Elliot Sagall, Assistant Resident, Dr. Melvin Black, Dr. James Schoenberger, Dr. Solomon Garb, Dr. David Myerson, Dr. George Kurland.

Pathology—Dr. Henry P. Brean, Dr. Dexter Abeloff.

X-Ray—Dr. Morris Zeltzerman, Dr. Samuel Blank.

The Visiting Committee for the Medical School of the Board of Overseers of Harvard University made a very cordial "visitation" to the hospital on February 21. The group consisted of about a dozen distinguished men and included Dean Burwell, Dr. David Cheever and Mr. Carl Dreyfus. Accompanied by Doctor Wilinsky, they inspected the Surgical Research Laboratory with Doctor Fine, discussed problems of teaching with Doctor Altschule, and then visited a Harvard Third Year Clinic given in the auditorium by Doctors Freedberg and Altschule.

On February 25, 1944, the Annual Farewell Dinner to the Surgical Residents was given in honor of Dr. Robert Shapiro, and Dr. Howard Lowenstein. Paeans of praise and expressions of good wishes were made by Doctors Wilinsky, Mixter and Berlin. Dr. Moorstein presided.

The steak dinner with all the "fixins" was magically produced by Miss Engla Anderson, our Chief Dietitian.

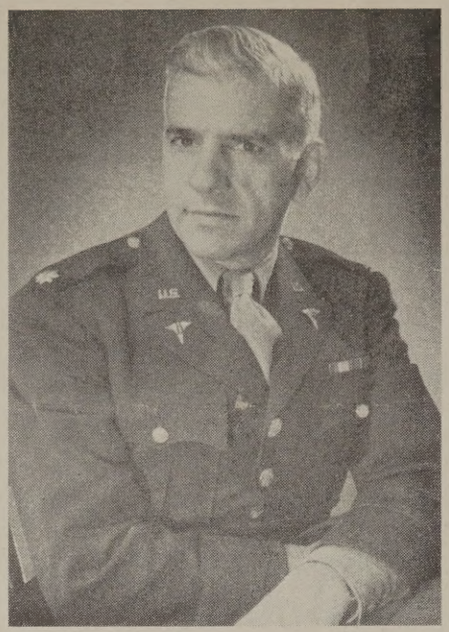
Dr. Shapiro becomes a "L.M.D." and will make his office with, and help, Dr. Mixter, after April 1.

Dr. Lowenstein became a resident surgeon at the Boston City Hospital on March 1.

DR. MAURICE ROSENZWEIG, who served as assistant director of the B.I.H., was appointed director of Mount Sinai Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and assumed that position on April 1. We appreciate the service he rendered while with us.

It is both pleasing and interesting to point out that he is the third executive who left the B.I.H. to serve as director of a prominent hospital. Mr. Sidney Bergman directs the Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburg, and Josephine Mulville, R.N., heads the N. E. Hospital for Women and Children.

DR. SIGMUND L. FRIEDMAN, formerly assistant director of the Montefiore Hospital in New York has succeeded Dr. Rosenzweig.



MAJOR A. M. FLASCHNER

MAJOR ABRAHAM M. FLASCHNER, now directing officer of a special Army Dental Unit in England, writes that he recently saw MAJOR ALFRED HURWITZ, LT. COL. MOSES STROCK, and LT. CLAIRE SONIS there.

"Just say hello to the folks at the hospital through the pages of the Bulletin for me," he asks.

The Major was a sailor in World War I. In September, 1942, he was called into active service. In January, 1943, he was sent to England, where he helped to organize the Army Dental Units.

MAJOR FLASCHNER was the first honorary president of the Allied Chapter, in the Midlands, which was formed to cooperate with the British Dental Association.

Message from Miss Gilmore

The nurses at home would like to thank the nurses in the Armed Forces for their Christmas greetings. We only wish that their notes had been longer, but the ones that they sent were read and reread. We posted the cards on a bulletin board in the Nurses' Residence and the student nurses were much impressed.

We feel the loss of our graduate nurses and miss them very much. However, we are admitting larger classes of students. Thirty-three came in September and twenty-two in January. Almost all of the new students who came in became members of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps and half of the entire school has enrolled in that group. These students must finish their basic training in thirty months leaving them free to choose whether, during their last six months, they wish to stay in their own school, work in a government hospital, or go on an affiliation provided by the home school.

Thirty of the September group received their caps on February 24. The exercises were impressive as usual and everyone felt very proud.

The problem of housing all of these new students is a difficult one.

The Nursing Office list of addresses for Army and Navy Nurses is badly out of date. We hope the Bulletin reaches each one of you and that you will send us your correct address . Don't forget that you are still a part of the Beth Israel Hospital.

From the Editor

The reception of the first issue (November) of the B.I.H. Bulletin was most gratifying. To many, in England and Africa, it arrived together with Thanksgiving turkey and cranberries. Several weeks later, its arrival lightened the burden of peeling spuds for one nurse "down under." After reading Capt. George White's letter, a nurse in Africa realized that she was near someone from home and an early meeting followed. To Lt. Col. B. M. Banks in Iowa, "it was like rain in the desert," whereas to Capt. S. S. Cohen, in England at the time, "it was like the proverbial breath of fresh air."

Will everyone, near and far, please help the Editor by sending news and changes of military address!

Our thanks for secretarial assistance to Miss Sylvia I. Sandler and Mrs. Charles Slosberg, and to Miss Frances Cohen for more of her artistic doodads.

JOHN B. SEARS, M.D.

Here and There

CAPT. ED BUDNITZ and PAUL ZOLL were local visitors after an extensive experience in the Aleutians. Their report on the invasion of Kiska and Attu cannot be printed at this time.

MAJOR LOUIS HERMANSON appeared in the hospital dining-room on the first day of Spring (during a blizzard). His experiences were superbly related, at

Surgical Grand Rounds, on March 21, 1944.

LT. COL. HERBERT FINEBERG has returned to the U. S. A. after about 22 months in Australia. He had recently been attached to one of the large general hospitals there. During the Christmas season, he wrote that it was mid-summer, and that the Aussies were singing about a white Christmas, which has never happened. One of his jobs was to work out an effective dosage with Atabrine for the prevention of relapses of malaria.

LT. COL. H. L. BLUMGART was the principal speaker at the graduation exercises at the Harvard Medical School. It is expected that the speech will be printed in the Harvard Alumni Bulletin.

CAPT. LOUIS E. BARRON is at the Kennedy General Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee. It is a 3,000 bed institution and covers an area of 167 acres. The patients are evacuees from every theater of combat, plus prisoners of war who also are battle casualties. CAPT. BARRON was assigned to the Surgical Service in the Neuro-Surgical section, which is responsible for a large group of herniated disks, peripheral nerve injuries, head trauma, and neoplasms.

LT. D. H. HINDMAN recently celebrated his 1st anniversary on his "Island Paradise." His Mobile Hospital had a daily patient census about five times that of the B.I.H., and was preparing to accommodate double that number, if necessary. He writes:

"How often I long for a taste of New England's nasty weather and snowy winter, as a transient diversion from heat, rain, and mosquitoes." More recently he has been given a new assignment, "A few hops up the line. This gang lives and plays hard. My hat is off to them. I am now in my twentieth continuous month of Summer, including two very wet tropical Summers." His new address is:

MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT BASE, NO. 3
c/o F.P.O., SAN FRANCISCO

MAJOR ARNOLD SEGEL received his promotion in November. He was chief of the Orthopedic section at the station hospital at Fort McPherson and is temporarily at the Lawson General Hospital.

MAJOR AL HURWITZ took a special course in chest surgery in London during December.

CAPT. JACOB MEZER has been in England where he met COL. ELIOT CUTLER shortly after his arrival.

CAPT. ARTHUR S. ABRAMS moved from Australia to New Guinea where he met MAJOR SAM LEVENSON. "Life out here is a far cry from what it is in Boston. Yet I expect to see stranger countries and live under more adverse conditions."

LT. COL. MOSES RALPH KAUFMAN is stationed in New Caledonia, where he is the consulting neuro-psychiatrist at Army Forces headquarters for the South Pacific area.

SGT. PAUL L. SHOWSTACK is with the Medical Corps of the Army Medical Museum. In December he was in Italy doing medical photography. He is working with COL. CHURCHILL and MAJOR SIMEONE of the M.G.H.

From DR. ALBERT A. SHAPIRA, "The news in the Bulletin is mighty interesting and strikes a responsive chord in me as a former member of the surgical staff. Its usefulness should extend long beyond the cessation of hostilities."

LT. ROBERT BARRON, son of the late DR. MAURICE BARRON, was killed in combat somewhere in China. He had flown extensively in Canada, England, North Africa, Palestine, and India. Our deep sympathy to his mother.

LT. COM. HENRY KONTOFF, since leaving Newport, is now attached to the "U. S. S. Bountiful." He writes:

"This hospital ship is near ready to sail and, as chief urologist, I have been rather busy getting equipment aboard and instructing nurses and corpsmen in urological organization. I have my own cystoscopy room, operating room, treatment room and a 46 bed ward. I am looking forward with a great deal of enthusiasm to my duties aboard this ship."

LT. MERRILL RUBINOW, at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma (formerly he was at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.) writes us he is with the Rainbow Division as Battalion Surgeon.

"Living out in these freezing Oklahoma hills is pretty rugged, but it's all part of the training and hardening program so we just try to take it in stride—a little hard to do with the water frozen in our canteens at 5 a.m.! Our division was in 'Life' this week (Dec. 3, 1943). This division has a lot of tradition to live up to from the last war and they're certainly making every effort to do so." He has since moved.

CAPT. NATHAN CHASET, having spent the past year "somewhere in Iran" writes that

"I have done every conceivable type of work that a Field Hospital requires, excepting urology. We don't have even one little cystoscope! I dream about the four I stored with my office furniture! Have done all types of traumatic surgery plus a good bit of elective surgery.

Since arriving here, I have become the official liaison officer for the hospital, principally because I am the only officer who speaks French, the official language here. I also speak enough Iranian to get along with the natives.

The health of the population in this very backward country is deplorable. A little B. I. annex would do wonders here!"

LILLIAN FINE, 2nd Lt., A.N.C. writes from the Pacific area: "The only compensation I get is from working. When I am around the patients, I feel that my end of this war is worthwhile. It is good to be able to be in the healing end of this mess. When a soldier says, 'I think you nurses are wonderful to come way out here and live like this just to take care of us'—that makes up for all the inconveniences we have to put up with."

ALICE MOPSIK GARDNER, R.N. writes she is "doing private pediatric duty in a permanent home case with Steven Michael, my 6 months-old son. My husband, recently commissioned Captain, is stationed at the Veterans' Hospital, in Lyons, N. J. I am living in Plainfield."

MAJOR LOUIS HERMANSON, writes from his hospital ship, "Shamrock," in the Mediterranean, that:

"Life on shipboard is not without interest. I've become a good sailor and feel very much at home on the sea. I have complete charge of the surgical service. We have carried thousands of patients and every sort of casualty has passed through my hands. I have had the problem of loading many hundreds of severely wounded in a few hours, often in a heavy sea, from all sorts of small craft. Sorting, billeting and treatment, under the circumstances, is a difficult job. Doing major surgery while pitching in a heavy sea is also something to write home about. Had dinner with Col. Churchill and Perrin Long recently."

LT. COL. MORTON G. BROWN, Chief of Medical Service at the 184th General Hospital, Fort Devens, found a group of B.I.H. alumni there when he became

attached to that unit in January. He reports that LT. COL. PHILLIPS BOYD is Chief of the Surgical Service, LT. COL. ROBERT FEINBERG is Chief of the Laboratory Service and CAPT. HYMAN L. NATERMAN and LT. ALAN A. ROZEN are also with that hospital, which now may be overseas.

LT. COM. WALTER S. LEVENSON reminds us that he was the editor of the original B.I. Bulletin in 1921. He reveals his present whereabouts with these words:

"From Camp Endicott, we traveled west to California. Finally, I found myself on a fast transport and at present, we are safely on land again. This camp is atop a high hill, surrounded by sugar cane and pineapple fields, with brick-red soil everywhere.

The constant drone of light patrol planes and heavy bombers reminds me that somewhere west of Hawaii, there is something going on."

LUCY BANKS, R.N., class of 1935, lives in Mexico City. She writes:

"I am not in the armed forces, but I am quite a stretch from home and am very hungry for home news. I received a copy of the last Bulletin and wore it out re-reading it. I would love to hear from my Boston friends. My address is as follows: Mrs. Lucy M. Banks De Reyes, Eugenia 407, Colonia del Valle, Mexico City, D.F., Mexico.

LT. ARCHIE ABRAMS, USN, has recently been reassigned to duty in the U. S. He served with the amphibious forces during the landings at Sicily and Salerno. He flew back from Africa, flying about 10,000 miles, and is attached to the obstetrical service of the Chelsea Naval Hospital.

CAPT. JEROME MARKS was a welcome visitor. After leaving the Beth Israel Hospital, he practiced in Detroit. He is now in England.

MAJOR MAXWELL BLOOMBERG, formerly of our Orthopedic Service, and CAPT. STEPHEN FLECK, are in England.

Recent graduates of B.I., recently stationed together in Texas are DR. A. SOLOMON (GUResident), DR. BENJAMIN GOLOB, and DR. H. J. (Lone Ranger) ZINN.

DR. J. E. F. RISEMAN has directed the production of a colored movie and brochure entitled, "Angina Pectoris." The funds were supplied by the Brewer Co. of Worcester, Mass.

LT. MILTON COHEN, X-Ray resident for 2½ years, is on duty at the Lawson General Hospital in Atlanta, Ga.

NURSE'S AIDE "PROBIES"—NOW CAPPED VETERANS

CAPT. GEORGE WHITE seems conscious of the weather:

"These African shores can be just as miserable in the winter as they are beautiful in the Summer. When I heard that Al Hurwitz's outfit was due, I went down to the docks, riding up and down, paging Al among the officers as they trooped along, but found that he had been left in England."

LT. COM. SAMUEL H. EPSTEIN is neuro-psychiatrist to the Coast Guard Stations and Maritime Service in the Baltimore area and at the Marine Hospital there. He writes as follows:

"Several natives from Iceland were flown here and each had a brain tumor. I am more convinced than ever that psychiatric screening of inductees is one of the most important functions of war medicine. I am collecting large numbers of cases of so-called war neurosis, among merchant seamen. These are not psychoneurosis in the ordinary sense, but represent life's reactions to the bombing and torpedoing of ships at sea."

CAPT. SYDNEY ELLIS writes: "I am no longer doing anesthesia. I have been an executive officer of Deshon General Hospital, Butler, Pa., for the past 6 months. I am working harder than I ever did as a civilian doctor."

LT. SUMNER LIEBMAN wrote from an Evacuation Hospital on desert maneuvers in Oregon:

"I never knew that Oregon had a desert, but I am convinced now. Previously, I was temporarily stationed at Stark General Hospital, where the executive officer told me that Major Louis Hermanson had been stationed there for 6 months and that he had been of tremendous value in training hospital personnel."

MAJOR STUART KROHN has left Palestine and is now with a Station Hospital in India.

Mrs. Brillard's Column:

MRS. ELIZA BRILLARD, R.N., our Night Supervisor, has culled and submitted the following bits of news:

Baby girls have joined the households of Dr. Robert Shapiro, Dr. Arnold Seligman, Dr. Louis Barron, Dr. David Kopans, and Rebecca Rothman. The stork is expected by Edith Grevoir Holzhammer, Anita Freedman Winer, Muriel Elias Gordon, Peppie Levine Naterman, and Ruth Crispeau Gibson.

Nurses waiting to hear from the Navy are Alice Rosenberg and Fay Weiner. Leaving us for the Navy in March is Jennie Friedberg. Minna Gold and two of our night general duty nurses, Veronica Feeley and Agnes Campbell go to the Army in March. Five nurses who joined the Army in February were Adele Shacter, Celia Lipson, Ruth Feldman, Dorothy Bernstein, and Marion Raphaelson.

New head nurses are Charlotte Factor 3A, Ann Finkel Modell 4C, Miriam Shapiro 5E, and Mildred Tapper 5D. Esther Sheinman has rejoined the hospital as head nurse on the eighth floor, since her husband has left the country.

Lea Nataupsky is now in the school office. Mrs. Louise Fineberg is on leave of absence.

Lt. Margaret Gagnon has been invalided home and would appreciate mail at

Letterman General Hospital
San Francisco, California
Ward P

When last heard from in the Southwest Pacific, Selma Salensky, Esta Simonds. Lillian Fine and Ann Gurin expected to move to a new country in March.

Lt. Charlotte Siegel is back in this country from Iceland and is at

Camp Myles Standish
Taunton, Massachusetts

Lt. Frances Ginsberg is stationed at the new Cushing General Hospital in Framingham.

Miss Ruth Kowitz is in the Navy.

We have just welcomed a new group of preclinical students (probies to you). We have 124 student nurses in the school at the present time, which is the largest group in the history of the school.

The alumnae honor roll is growing so large that we feel that we will soon have to build on an addition.

LT. BEATRICE R. COHEN, after a period of duty as an army nurse in Australia, has been honorably discharged and is back on duty at the B.I.H.

CAPT. LOUIS ROSENFELD, who had worked in the Surgical Research Laboratory several years ago, reports his joy in meeting MAJ. LOUIS HERMANSON at some port in Italy. Major Hermanson has been very active as surgeon on a hospital ship, sailing back and forth between Italy and North Africa. (We remember when he would get seasick on the boat to New York.) Now he is "too busy to experience such things."

At a meeting of the Greater Boston Medical Society, held on Feb. 7, DR. IRA NATHANSON spoke on "Recent Trends in Cancer Therapy." The paper was discussed by DRS. DAVIDOFF and DALAND. DR. DAVID BERLIN presided.

At the March 21st meeting of the Greater Boston Medical Society, a Symposium on "PSYCHOTHERAPY" was given. Speakers were DRS. IVES HENDRICK, DR. JACOB E. FINESINGER and DR. ERICH LINDEMANN.

CAPT. ADOLPH MELTZER is in North Africa.

DR. STANLEY J. SARNOFF, who graduated from Johns Hopkins Medical School, and who had interned at Bellevue Hospital, is now working in the Surgical Research Laboratory.

MAJOR SAM LEVENSON, who was one of the first members of our staff to get into uniform, has finally been tracked down. Since June 1941, he has been with an evacuation hospital which trained in Mississippi and California-Arizona desert. He is now in command of a medium sized Evac. Hosp. in New Guinea. Says he, "While it is not exactly the tropical paradise that the ads would have us believe, everybody is doing his best and hoping for an early homeward journey."

MAJOR LEO B. BURGIN, after his campaigns in Africa and Italy, is stationed in England.

ROBERT SIMON, a corporal in a medical detachment of an infantry battalion, read a copy of the Bulletin "somewhere in England." Because he had been a patient at the B.I.H. on several occasions, he was moved to send a report. He promises to write of his experiences after he goes into combat with the first echelon of medical evacuation. He has made a pertinent bacteriological observation. "The climate is so bad over here that the only bacteria that dare to set up in business are the Gonococcus and Treponema Pallidum."

ENS. ESTHER BERGIN, stationed at the Newport Naval Hospital, writes:

"I can well imagine how thrilling the Bulletin will be to our doctors and nurses who are thousands of miles distant. Keep up the good work. It will mean much to many."

MAJOR ROBERT ULIN:

"It is a most welcome source of information and I will be looking forth to future issues. He writes from the desert training center—California."

He is en route by now.

LT. HELEN RUTSTEIN, A.N.C.

"It really is difficult to know where or how to begin to tell you how much I appreciated the B.I.H. Bulletin. It also made me mad because at the point when I was most homesick and wanted to meet someone I knew, I realized (after reading George White's letter) that I was within about ten minutes walking distance of him. As yet I have met no one also whom I knew back in the States."

She is wintering in a Nissen hut, warding off the cold and damp with a pot belly stove. The censor went to town on one of her paragraphs, as follows:

"I have done some traveling around since hitting the shore . . . is a much nicer and more modern place than . . . ; and . . . would have been lovely if they had left enough standing. That place was really shattered; then . . . and . . other places. I am still hoping to make . . . and see . . . and the few remaining ruins. I even took a souvenir which I have since mislaid. I am now ready to do more sightseeing, but on the continent of Europe."

From LT. SELMA SALENSKY:

"The Bulletin arrived as I was knee deep in the inspiring task of peeling spuds as part of my K.P. duties, and it did more to lift my morale than anything that has happened in months.

We hope you will realize just how much we all appreciate your efforts to keep us informed and how eagerly we will await further editions. From the land of "down under" and in their language, we all say, "Good on You." Best wishes to all our friends for a happy new year."

ADELE HURWITZ and SYLVIA HARRIS sent a long letter from New Guinea. Excerpts follow:

"We are fairly well settled in a station hospital of which we are very proud, for in spite of the fairly primitive conditions and the undescribable elements, it is amazing to see the fine type of work that is done. We are constantly amazed, not in the indifference, but at the naturalness with which everyone accepts the acutely ill soldier, high fevers, emergencies, and so forth. Care essential to a bed patients in Boston is considered pampering here, and is not allowed.

We certainly do not look very professional trying to write our night reports, by kerosene lamp, while sitting at a crude desk, wearing khaki shirts and slacks under a hooded raincoat, while the rain drips down our faces and blotches the records, and the unbelievable animal life takes over the controls. Our main problem is wearing the same clothing for days or putting on clean but soaking wet clothes.

The weather: Incessant rain or blazing sun. Bully beef and dehydrated foods constitute the main part of our diet, although lately we have been treated to some fresh meat and potatoes. A pill with each noon meal has atabrinized us sufficiently so that we could easily be mistaken for a species of the yellow race.

The real high-light of our day is mail call. That decides our frame of mind for the day."

CAPT. JACK GURWITZ writes with enthusiasm of his part in the Sicilian campaign:

"All the way through the Sicilian campaign, we worked incessantly, 10 and 15 day stretches, with occasionally breaks of one to three days for rest and moving. We first found ourselves near Gela, where we landed on the 3rd day of the invasion. We set up near an airfield that was bombed night after night, but I cannot say our sleep was disturbed for we worked most of the time.

I am on a general surgical team with our neuro-surgeon doing general surgery and I have also done quite a few intracranial procedures. In view of all the orthopedic surgery I did at Camp Edwards I have also been asked to hely the orthopedic surgeon as there is too much work for one man. You see, therefore, that I have been busy and all of this to my joy. It is so miserable sitting around doing nothing.

From Gela, we made a circuitous, all-night drive, which some of us felt was the most trying time of all our experiences. We traveled black-out through mountains on narrow winding, miserable roads until we found a place to set up. The only place was Petrallo which was 6 miles from the front at that time. However, we could find no suitable spot to set up our hospital and moved three miles closer to the front and set up on the side of a mountain.

We had passed all the clearing stations and some Batallion Aid stations—artillery fire and dive-bombing were going on all around. Somehow it did not bother us because we were told to set up immediately, and to the amazement of all the generals and the army surgeon. our boys set that hospital up in two

hours. We received patients and operated on some within another half-hour. We were pretty proud of our organization then—Col. Churchill was around and was amazed at our speed.

In 10 days of incessant work, we had a total of 12 hours of sleep. I was glad to rest for 3 solid days and nights after that. The terrific battle of Troina had been going on and casualties were very high, but with its fall, we again moved, to San Stefano, where we had our narrowest escape.

We were to set up on the beach and had just pulled into the area when we saw two Jerry planes, dive-bombing a destroyer off the coast, about ½ mile away. Then they spotted our convoy and headed for us. We still had our trucks full, so they did not know we were a hospital. After a few strafing attacks, they were driven off or shot down, by guns near by. We immediately pulled out the good old Red Cross which they have been good enough to observe."

GURWITZ was last heard from at the Anzio Beach Head.

LT. COM. BERNARD M. JACOBSON sent a long letter, dated December 30, 1943, about a month after landing on one of the Solomon Islands where his Naval Mobile Hospital is situated. Together with the SeaBees, the men in his group had to set up their own pre-fabricated buildings. The hospital apparently is or will be a huge one, consisting of about 175 buildings. The group has its own daily newspaper and daily movies. The island is owned mainly by Lever Bros., because of the huge cocoanut plantations, and the natives are Melanesians. Here are some of his comments:

"Climate: Not bad, warm during the day with high humidity. Woolens and shoes must be protected against mildew. There is ever so much rain. **Island:** Very little jungle, therefore not too many bugs and mosquitoes. **Animals:** The commonest is a very pretty little green lizard which is very friendly and keeps down the insect population, a few tree frogs, trillions of mice and rats. We hear them on the roof at night. **Food:** Aside from one good meal on Christmas (the whole works) and a few bits of New Zealand lamb and beef on three occasions, it has been tough. All of us have lost weight. We hope for improvement soon. **Liquor:** Beer is scarce, but on Christmas we were able to provide every enlisted man with three cans. It is the ideal drink down here. **Mail:** Air-mail from Newton takes 15 to 20 days, probably due to the Christmas rush. No question but what lack of mail can get you down more than any other deficit. **Recreation:** Inside a lagoon and off the coral reef, beautiful clear water, lovely shells, indescribably beautiful fish. With underwater goggles, one views a new world. **Leonard Jarcho,** is on an Island which we can see from here but which is about 50 miles away (8,000 ft. mountain). He made me a surprise visit after I wrote to him. You can imagine how thrilling that was. **Natives:** Men and women wear nothing but pants or a short skirt. All smoke pipes and chew betel nuts which colors the teeth reddish black. Jarcho and I visited a native village on a neighboring Island. The village consisted of a few dozen thatched huts, neat gardens, Singer sewing machines, and a Catholic Church. The Chief spoke pidgin English. Trading was difficult as there was little to sell, but for two dollars we were able to get 10 pineapples, 3 papayas, and one small watermelon. The prevailing price for a grass skirt is one khaki shirt plus trousers. This is of course exorbitant. There are no women on our Island."

After a long silence, we have finally caught up with CAPT. MICHAEL FISHMAN. Dr. Aaron Kaufman permitted us to print part of his letter from the Capt., mailed from New Guinea on Jan. 4, 1944:

"The B.I.H. Bulletin was most interesting. What amazed me is that some of the letters from men in other theatres described the activities in that immediate vicinity. Mr. Censor here will not allow us to say whether we have been bombed, mention seeing a Jap Zero, a Jap soldier, describe the hospital or even mention the names of the tropical diseases seen here, although it should be quite obvious to Japs who have been here before us. For awhile we could not even say that we were in New Guinea.

About 2 months ago, after 10 months in this jungle, I went to Sydney, Australia to attend a two-week course in the school of tropical medicine, at Sydney University. The school was only fair, being mainly for those who have not been up here as yet. Without being a braggart, I consider myself a veteran in tropical diseases and I had to learn it the hard way, too.

But what a town Sydney is!! Wide open, with plenty of young, pretty girls who are —— and ——. The average "Aussie" is very reserved and unromantic. Something new has been added to the social life of the town by the galavanting carefree, money-spending Yanks!

After an absence of 7 weeks, during which I traveled about 5,000 miles by air, I arrived back at my unit, anticipating a well-earned rest in New Guinea, but the next day we were on the move. Spent 3 days in a first-class steerage on a slow freighter before arriving at our destination. This new place is a rough, hot jungle, which had to be cleared by hand and set up in hurry. We have become a good engineering outfit. My blistered hands, from digging a fox-hole, are just about recovered.

We are now functioning and I am enjoying my work, especially since I am seeing a tropical disease which was not too prevalent at our last area. In spite of some discomforts, such as sponge bathing out of a tin helmet, I am content."

Several months earlier, when Capt. Fishman was stationed in a more civilized area, he presented a paper on "Black Water Fever" before the local military medical society. About 100 medical officers were present, many travelling 30 miles over a very rough road in the rain to attend the meeting.

CAPT. SIDNEY S. COHEN writes from deep in the heart of Ulster, North Ireland, where he was on detached service as surgeon to a Station Hospital before returning to England.

His earlier duty was with an Auxiliary Surgical Group near London. He cycled far and wide, visiting everything from pubs to Roman ruins, and is very enthusiastic about the British.

"They have justly earned their history and their future. One of the most vivid impressions is the industrial, economic, and mechanical sluggishness of this otherwise highly civilized people, but, in compensation, is the luxuriously slow and dignified tempo of their existence."

He is proud and keen about the Auxiliary Surgical Groups.

"The battle grounds of Russia, the jungle fronts in New Guinea, the swirling sands of Africa, have been the proving grounds."

He extends his best wishes to all the staff.

CAPT. LEON MANHEIMER is probably our correspondent nearest the North Pole, possibly in Greenland.

"I would have written sooner but I was in the process of moving from outpost duty back to the base hospital. And that, at this time of the year (February) is no mean undertaking. Censorship prevents me from saying anything much about my outpost work. I will only say that I learned to appreciate the splendors of this strange land and will tell the rest when we get together after the war. The hospital at present is remarkably well equipped. There are some well-trained surgeons among us, as a consequence of which I am at present in charge of a medical ward. I am also Chief of the X-ray department, and read all plates, mostly chest or bone pictures. There is no roentgenologist in this country at present, which makes me as well qualified for this job as any of my colleagues. In this connection, I often think of my training in Boston with a great deal of gratitude.

In this section of the country Koch's bacillus appears to be even more prevalent among the natives than I had originally been led to believe. In certain communities no one seems to escape the infection. The crowded living conditions and the poor diet are probably important factors. Contact between us and the natives is practically non-existent. This, plus our excellent standard of living, has helped to prevent the spread of the bacillus.

I am sure you will be pleased to hear of my promotion. It certainly bolstered my morale as did the nurses who arrived not long ago."